

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 EUR-12 FRB-03 STR-07
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 OES-07 DOE-15 SOE-02
/132 W

-----083732 230937Z /23

R 230210Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 302
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 2260

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ASEAN, EGEN, US, SN

SUBJECT: ASEAN-US DIALOGUE: DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

REF: A) STATE 122756 B) STATE 124581

1. WE HAVE PASSED ON TO MFA ECONOMIC DIVISON CHIEF
LEE CHIONG GIAM ANSWERS PROVIDED IN REF A TO HIS QUESTIONS.
RE DATES FOR ASEAN-US DIALOGUE, HE SEEMED SATISFIED
WITH EXPLANATION FOR OUR PREFERENCE FOR AUGUST 3-4.

2. HE WAS LESS HAPPY TO BE TOLD THAT ELECTRONIC TRAIN-
ING INSTITUTE PROPOSAL WOULD PROBABLY NOT QUALIFY UNDER
US AID BHN CRITERIA. HE ARGUES THAT WORKERS IN ELECTRONICS
FACTORIES ARE VEY CLOSE TO LOWEST END OF INCOME SCALE
IN SINGAPORE (SINGAPORE HAS VERY FEW RURAL POOR), AND
THAT BEST WAY TO UPGRADE THEIR LIVING STANDARD IS TO
INCREASE THEIR PRODUCTIVITY AND EVENTUALLY UPGRADE
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QUALITY OF ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY. ON NATIONAL BASIS,
SINGAPORE "CANNOT SURVIVE ON SIMPLE INDUSTRIES" AND
INCREASING THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL LEVEL IS ESSENTIAL TO
GROWTH.

3. COMMENT: US PROPOSALS FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE TO ASEAN POSE A PROBLEM. SINGAPORE, ON ITS

OWN NEEDS AND MERITS, IS NOT A CANDIDATE FOR US ASSISTANCE, YET IT CANNOT REALLY BE LEFT OUT OF A REGIONAL PROGRAM INTENDED PRINCIPALLY TO DEMONSTRATE US SUPPORT FOR ASEAN. IT SEEMS THAT WHAT ASEAN MAY HAVE IN MIND FOR OUR CONSIDERATION IS A SERIES OF PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS OF PRIMARY BENEFIT TO ONE OR TWO COUNTRIES BUT WHICH COULD BE EXPANDED TO BENEFIT ALL FIVE. THIS WOULD MEAN, UNLESS SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA RE TO BE LEFT OUT OR UNLESS THESE TWO COUNTRIES ARE TO BE ADDED TO THE US AID LIST, THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER HELP-ING WITH REGIONAL PROJECTS IN THESE COUNTRIES THAT WOULD AT FIRST LOOK A GREAT DEAL LIKE NATIONAL PRO-JECTS. AN ALTERNATIVE IS, AS SUGGESTED REF A, REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. WHILE THIS MAKES GOOD SENSE IN THE CASE OF SINGAPORE FROM DEVELOPMENT POINT OF VIEW, IT WOULD BE REGARDED AS PRETTY THIN RESULT OF MINISTERIAL MEETING. LEE CERTAINLY SEEMED UNIMPRESSED WITH OUR MENTION OF REIMBURSABLE ASSISTANCE. HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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